

REMARKS

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 8-15 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,123,077 to *Endo et al.* (“*Endo*”). Applicant respectfully traverses, noting that *Endo* does not disclose every element of the claims as amended. More specifically, *Endo* does not disclose the concave light reflecting surfaces of claims 1 and 12.

As noted previously, *Endo* discloses a light guide 4A having a flat light reflecting surface 4a (Col. 7:25-28) and a light emitting surface 4d (Col. 5:4-6). Respectfully, it appears that Examiner is under the mistaken impression that surface 4d of *Endo* is a light reflecting surface (Final Office Action, page 3, line 3). However, *Endo* discloses that surface 4d is a light emitting surface (Col. 5:4-6). The light reflecting surface of *Endo* is flat surface 4a. Accordingly, claims 1 and 12 are patentable over *Endo* for at least the reason that they recite that “the light reflecting surface of the light guide plate is concave” (emphasis added).

Claims 2-3, 8-11, and 13-15 depend either from claim 1 or claim 12 and are thus also patentable over *Endo* for at least this same reason.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Endo* in view of European Patent Publication No. EP 0663600 to *Koike et al.* (“*Koike*”). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Endo* and *Koike* in view of European Patent Publication No. EP 0607453 to *Funamoto et al.* (“*Funamoto*”). Applicant respectfully traverses noting that, even in combination, these references do not disclose every element of Applicant’s claims. More specifically, none of these references discloses the concave light reflecting surface of claim 1 from which claims 4-7 depend.

As above, *Endo* does not disclose a concave light reflecting surface. Neither *Koike* nor *Funamoto* cures the deficiency of *Endo*. *Koike* discloses a light guide 1 whose light reflecting surface is flat (e.g., FIG. 8).¹ *Funamoto* at most discloses a polarizer 29 whose thickness varies yet

¹ Examiner also appears to be under the impression that Applicant relied on FIG. 8 of *Endo* (Final Office Action, page 7, Responses to Arguments). However, Applicant points out that he has relied on FIG. 8 of *Koike*, not FIG. 8 of *Endo*.

still has straight, flat sides 29a, 29b (e.g., FIG. 12b). Accordingly, no concave surfaces are disclosed.

Claims 4-7 depend from claim 1, and are thus patentable over any combination of *Endo*, *Koike*, and *Funamoto* for at least the same reason described above.

Conclusion

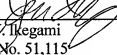
The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number below in order to speed the prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2257.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) via the USPTO's EFS-Web electronic filing system on May 6, 2008.

Jon Y. Ikegami

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